

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 070457
ORIGIN H-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 HA-05 SP-02
INR-10 L-03 INRE-00 /048 R

DRAFTED BY H:DBENNET/AMOSS:RVC
APPROVED BY H:DBENNET
ARA/PAN:RWYROUGH
D:WCHRISTOPHER
S/S:O :RCASTRODALE
-----052539 182233Z /61
O 182215Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070457

STADIS/////////
FOR AMBASSADOR JORDEN FROM BENNET/MOSS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PN, PEPR

SUBJECT: STONE-CASE LETTER TO TORRIJOS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. WE TALKED AT LENGTH WITH STONE THIS MORNING ABOUT THE LETTER, EXPLAINING THE PRECARIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION IN PANAMA. STONE INSISTS THAT THE LETTER GO FORWARD AND IS UNWILLING TO REDRAFT IT. HE DOES, HOWEVER, OFFER AN EXPLANATION OUTLINED BELOW WHICH YOU MAY PASS TO THE PANAMANIAN AND WHICH MAY SUBSTANTIALLY EASE THE SITUATION. CASE IS VERY MUCH A SECONDARY PLAYER.
2. STONE HAS BEEN UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE PANAMANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION THROUGHOUT TREATY CONSIDERATION (THEIR REPRESENTATIVE WATCHED HIM CLOSELY DURING SFRC
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 070457

MARK-UP). THEY HAVE PRESSED HIM TO SPONSOR AN AMENDMENT OR RESERVATION, BUT HE HAS RESISTED. IN BUILDING HIS RECORD ON THE ISSUE, STONE EARLY LAST WEEK CIRCULATED A "DEAR COLLEAGUE" LETTER TO ALL SENATORS URGING THEM TO WRITE TO TORRIJOS ASKING FOR FURTHER STEPS IN HUMAN RIGHTS. STONE HAS ALSO APPARENTLY WRITTEN PRESIDENT CARTER SUGGESTING THAT HE URGE TORRIJOS TO MOVE ON HUMAN RIGHTS. STONE

CONSIDERS HIS LETTER TO TORRIJOS A LOGICAL AND NECESSARY FOLLOW-ON TO THESE PREVIOUS STEPS. HE HAS SHOWN THE

TORRIJOS LETTER TO THE PANAMANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION, BUT HE HAS NOT GIVEN THEM A COPY.

3. FYI. IN RESPONSE TO AN EARLIER STONE INQUIRY, TORRIJOS HAD APPARENTLY INVITED STONE TO VISIT PANAMA DURING THE TREATY DEBATE. STONE SENT A CUBAN/AMERICAN AS AN INTERMEDIARY TO TORRIJOS ASKING HIM WHAT STONE COULD EXPECT TO BRING BACK FROM SUCH A VISIT. STONE REPORTS THAT TORRIJOS SAID THAT HE WOULD AGREE TO HAVING INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS FOR THE AUGUST ELECTIONS. TORRIJOS WAS UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, TO COMMIT HIMSELF TO LEGALIZING POLITICAL PARTIES--STONE'S CHIEF CONCERN. STONE THEREFORE WILL NOT VISIT PANAMA. END FYI.

4. STONE WISHES TO EMPHASIZE (1) THAT HE IS TRYING TO PROTECT THE TREATIES FROM AMENDMENTS OR RESERVATIONS, (2) THAT HE SENT THE LETTER BEFORE THE DECONCINI DEBATE BROKE INTO THE OPEN, AND (3) THAT HE AND CASE BOTH SUPPORT THE TREATIES. HIS OBJECTIVE, HE SAYS, IS TO ENCOURAGE TORRIJOS TO TAKE SOME FURTHER POSITIVE ACTION DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE TREATY DEBATE TO FORESTALL HUMAN RIGHTS AMENDMENTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 070457

5. FYI. WE TRIED TO EXTRACT AN AGREEMENT FROM STONE THAT HE WOULD NOT PUBLISH THE LETTER UNTIL AFTER THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING NEXT WEEK. HE DID NOT GIVE US THAT COMMITMENT, BUT DID AGREE NOT TO PUBLISH IT BEFORE TUESDAY, AND TO GIVE US NOTICE BEFOREHAND. END FYI.

6. YOU CAN BEST JUDGE HOW TO HANDLE THIS. STONE WOULD BE HELPED MOST BY A LETTER FROM TORRIJOS ANNOUNCING ADDITIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION. MORE ACCEPTABLE FROM THE PANAMANIAN POINT OF VIEW MIGHT BE A LETTER RECOUNTING STEPS TAKEN TO DATE AND REPEATING PLEDGES ALREADY MADE. THEN, AT SOME POINT DURING THE DEBATE, TORRIJOS MIGHT SIMPLY ANNOUNCE ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE THAT THE OBSERVER COULD BE PRESENT FOR THE ELECTIONS.

7. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE THAT THIS ISSUE WILL GAIN ADDED CURRENCY ON THE SENATE FLOOR UNTIL AFTER THE EASTER RECESS.

VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY RATIFICATION, HUMAN RIGHTS, LEGISLATIVE MAIL, CANALS, UPPER HOUSE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE070457
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DBENNET/AMOSS:RVC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780121-0191
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780350/aaaabqny.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 53967cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN H
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3280487
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STONE-CASE LETTER TO TORRIJOS ON HUMAN RIGHTS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, SHUM, EWWT, PEPR, PN, US, (STONE, RICHARD), (CASE, CLIFFORD P), (TORRIJOS HERRERA, OMAR)
To: PANAMA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/53967cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014